

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

In the Matter of:

BOARD CAMP, AR, 71932
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No: A2011-68

RESIDENTS AND CUSTOMERS of the BOARD CAMP, AR Post Office, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the BOARD CAMP, AR, post office. The Final Determination was posted July 2011
(date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instruction for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

The facts in the Postal Service's final determination are true, but they do not prove what the Postal Service says they prove. Also, the facts relied on by the Postal Service have not been established. The Postal Service's main savings will be realized by not having to pay a post master's salary. However, cost of lease and utilities are substantially less than the costs of many locations. To summarize the Postal Service's statements in their final determination, the Postal Service stated that, in their opinion based on their findings, the closure would not be a disadvantage to customers. That statement is simply NOT TRUE and not all facts have not been established by the Postal Service. Some of these facts are established below:

1. Maximum level of service provided: In discussing the Board Camp Post Office closure with both, Mr. Clermon a representative at the Little Rock, Arkansas office, of Senator John Boozman, AND Mrs. Herring, a representative at the El Dorado, Arkansas office, of Congressman Mike Ross, the Postal Service is required to deliver a "maximum level of service" to a community. To close the Board Camp Post Office is NOT delivering the maximum level of service to the community of Board Camp. Here are some reasons that the Residents and Customers of Board Camp have identified as inconsistent with the Postal Service's findings on which to base closure:

a. Location and travel for Post office services: The Postal Service stated that Board Camp was located about 7 miles from the nearest post office. Board Camp is a rural community, located 10 miles East, from the nearest post office in Mena, Arkansas. Many of Board Camp customers live further East beyond the 10 miles, and should the Board Camp Post Office close, customers would be required to commute 10, 20 and even 30 miles to obtain post office counter services.

b. Services obtained via Internet or Local Carrier: The Postal Service claimed that customers may be served via the internet or local carrier. Board Camp is a rural community and does NOT have high speed internet services available. Most residents have dial up connections, and those residents who have satellite connections, are often not able to connect, or have poor, or interrupted connections because of interference due to the weather or obstacles in the way of the satellites, such as trees. It is NOT convenient for rural customers to get postal services online. Also, it is definitely not feasible to meet the carrier to purchase stamps, weigh oversized letters, or mail packages. The carriers do not have a consistent visit time to each delivery box on their routes, due to various delays, and many boxes are located on highways, and customers cannot see the boxes from their homes, to see when the carrier pulls up, so that they can conduct business with the carrier. This would be particularly unreasonable for senior citizens or disabled customers to try to catch a carrier on route, to conduct business that would normally be conducted at a post office counter. This creates a tremendous hardship for rural customers, to obtain mail services.

2. Based on its APPEAL and PETITION for review of the Postal Service's Final Determination, by the petitioners, the Residents and Customers of Board Camp, the Postal Service did not provide to the community or consider the following:

A. REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO CLOSURE, SUCH AS REDUCED SERVICES or HOURS OF OPERATION.

B. A LIFE-CYCLE BENEFIT COST ANALYSIS OF THE BUILDING LEASED & CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OF INVESTMENT

C. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPACTS ON RURAL DELIVERY DRIVER TO ADD MORE CUSTOMERS TO EXISTING ROUTE

D. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPACTS ON POST OFFICE BOX HOLDERS

E. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPACTS ON THE BOARD CAMP COMMUNITY

F. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPACTS ON THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY

Please refer to that APPEAL for more details of each area of concern.

Thank you.

Residents and Customers of Board Camp Post Office,

Dated: October 13, 2011